



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Public Health Service
Food and Drug Administration
SOUTHWEST REGION

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Office of the Regional
Food and Drug Director
7920 Elmbrook Drive, Suite 102
Dallas, TX 75247-4982
TELEPHONE: 214-655-8100
FACSIMILE: 214-655-8130

WARNING LETTER

October 7, 1999
Certified Mail
Return Receipt Requested

99-SWR-WL-31/7

Charles Sexton, CEO
Valley Regional Medical Center
100-A Alton Gloor Blvd.
Brownsville, TX 78521

RE: Inspection ID - 2009490003

Dear Charles Sexton,

We are writing to you because on 7/15/1999, your facility was inspected by a representative of the State of TX, acting in behalf of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). This inspection revealed a serious regulatory problem involving the mammography at your facility.

Under a United States Federal law, the Mammography Quality Standards Act of 1992, your facility must meet specific requirements for mammography. These requirements help protect the health of women by assuring that a facility can perform quality mammography. The inspection revealed the following level 1 and level 2 findings at your facility:

Level 1: The interpreting physician did not meet the requirement of being certified by an FDA- recognized board or having the alternative of 2 months training in the interpretation of mammograms: [REDACTED]

Level 1: The interpreting physician did not meet the requirement of being certified by an FDA- recognized board or having the alternative of 2 months training in the interpretation of mammograms: [REDACTED]

Level 1: The interpreting physician did not meet the requirement of being certified by an FDA- recognized board or having the alternative of 2 months training in the interpretation of mammograms: [REDACTED]

Level 2: The interpreting physician did not meet the requirement of having initial experience in mammography (read or interpreted 240 patient examinations in a 6 month period): [REDACTED]

Level 2: The interpreting physician did not meet the requirement of having a minimum of 40 CME credit hours of initial training in mammography: [REDACTED]

Level 2: There was no designated reviewing interpreting physician for site.

Level 2: The interpreting physician did not meet the requirement of having a minimum of 40 CME credit hours of initial training in mammography: [REDACTED]

Level 2: The interpreting physician did not meet the continuing experience requirement of having read or interpreted 960 patient examinations in a 24 month period: [REDACTED]

Level 2: The interpreting physician did not meet the requirement of having initial experience in mammography (read or interpreted 240 patient examinations in a 6 month period): [REDACTED]

The specific problems noted above appeared on your MQSA Facility Inspection Report, which was issued to your facility at the close of the inspection.

Because these conditions may be symptomatic of serious underlying problems that could compromise the quality of mammography at your facility, they represent a serious violation of the law which may result in FDA taking regulatory action without further notice to you. These actions include, but are not limited to, placing your facility under a Directed Plan of Correction, charging your facility for the cost of on-site monitoring, assessing civil money penalties up to \$10,000 for each failure to substantially comply with, or each day of failure to substantially comply with, the Standards, suspension or revocation of your facility's FDA certificate, or obtaining a court injunction against further mammography.

It is necessary for you to act on this matter immediately. Please explain to this office in writing within fifteen (15) working days from the date you received this letter:

- the specific steps you have taken to correct all of the violations noted in this letter;
- each step your facility is taking to prevent the recurrence of similar violations;
- equipment settings (including technique factors), raw test data, and calculated final results, where appropriate; and
- sample records that demonstrate proper record keeping procedures, if the findings relate to quality control or other records (Note: Patient names or identification should be deleted from any copies submitted).

Please submit your response to:
Deborah M. McGee
Food and Drug Administration
7920 Elmbrook Drive, Suite 102
Dallas, TX 75247

Finally, you should understand that there are many FDA requirements pertaining to mammography. This letter pertains only to findings of your inspection and does not necessarily address other obligations you have under the law. You may obtain general information about all of FDA's requirements for mammography facilities by contacting the Mammography Quality Assurance Program, Food and Drug Administration, P.O. Box 6057, Columbia, MD 21045-6057 (1-800-838-7715) or through the Internet at <http://www.fda.gov>.

If you have more specific questions about mammography facility requirements, or about the content of this letter, please feel free to contact Deborah M. McGee at (214) 655-8100 ext. 138 or fax (214) 655-8130.

Sincerely yours,


Edward R. Esparza
Regional Food and Drug Director